

THE GLOBE-REPUBLICAN.

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DODGE CITY, KANSAS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1891.

FIFTEENTH YEAR. VOL. XIV, NO. 15

Practical Irrigation by Practical Methods.

A paper read at the Annual Meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, January 15th, 1891, by John L. Finley, Ford County, Kansas.

There are three methods of irrigation, theoretical, scientific and practical.

Theoretical irrigation is that kind treated by politicians, newspaper writers and stock-jobbing ditch builders; the one to get office, the other for notoriety, the last to make money selling stocks. Neither ever expect to see water used by farmers for the purpose of raising crops but only for the purpose of using water to raise wind.

Scientific irrigation is the method used by scientific professors, late graduates of our modern colleges and by Prof. Powell of the geological survey at Washington. The one to show their knowledge of Latin and Greek words, unpronounceable and unknown to the average reader. The other to exhibit their learning, the last to hold on to a fat office that will not solve the problem of irrigation for the next six generations.

Practical irrigation is the method by which the farmers of southwestern Kansas hope to solve the problem, and use the water for irrigation purposes during their present sojourn on earth.

As far as the Arkansas river valley is concerned that can be easily done, as it is now practically settled that the underflow with the water flowing in the river will be sufficient, if properly utilized, to irrigate millions of acres within a radius of twenty to forty miles of the river. As the river has a fall of seven feet to the mile and a ditch can be run on much less grade by running the ditch up the river for two to four miles, a sufficient depth can be made. Sheet water or underflow that extends to an unknown breadth under the bottom lands, so that sufficient water can be procured to fill a moderate sized ditch, say from twelve to sixteen feet wide that will irrigate three to five townships of land. This underflow is practically on a level with the river bed, and as far as tested is constant and steady without regard to the amount of water in the stream. Now the practical use of this water for irrigating purposes in southwestern Kansas no one any more questions, as the last three or four years have fully convinced all that farming is a success only by irrigation, and by irrigation this part of the state can be made the garden of the earth, as wherever tried with any degree of fairness, everything planted has proved a sure success, and ground that was thoroughly irrigated for corn one year produced an extra crop of wheat the next without more water being used, thus demonstrating that a small amount of water properly utilized will produce marked results in the way of raising crops. Now I do not propose any theoretical or scientific plan of procuring water but a plain practical method. Individuals and small communities of farmers have dug ditches and shown the practicability of getting the water along the Arkansas river, and as land in western Kansas is practically of no value now without irrigation, I propose to make the land pay for its own increased value by taxing it to dig and build ditches in every township within twenty miles of the river, therefore, we will request and urge the present legislature to give the townships or districts the right to vote bonds to the amount of one dollar per acre of the land actually under the irrigating ditch, to dig and build them, and the township or irrigating district shall own and operate the same for their own use under such regulations as such district shall direct by a board of trustees or commissioners. By this method and these means I believe that water can be conveyed to every township within 20 miles of the Arkansas river, and make land that is now of little or no value worth from twenty to fifty dollars per acre—and then place the water at a mere nominal price to what is now charged by the big irrigating canals that do not furnish water when most needed. The farmers will be placed out of the grasp of these soulless corporations—and these small ditches can, from the underflow, be, at all times, kept full of water, and as irrigation can be carried on nearly as well in winter as summer, a less amount of water will be required to irrigate a large amount of land.

Then have water sold by the inch, so a farmer will know what he is getting and paying for, and at a fair price, and by encouraging farmers to build large or small reservoirs to store water for use when needed, a large part of western Kansas can be made the finest farming country on the earth, and in place of ten to twelve bushels of wheat we can raise thirty to forty to the acre, and in place of no corn we are sure to raise forty to sixty bushels every year without fail, and vegetables unlimited.

And this way of the people owning the ditches and having control of the water themselves and using it for their own good is in strict line with the principles as laid down by the farmers' alliance, "That the people should control their own interests," and not soulless corporations. I will this year, as I did last year, request the legislature to appoint a com-

missioner of irrigation, and put the state chartered ditches that sell water for revenue, under the same regulations in regard to selling water that railroads are as to transportation.

Since the foregoing paper was read at the annual meeting of the State Agricultural Society, the legislature has several bills before it to form irrigating districts and permitting the citizens to vote bonds to build ditches, and I think some of these bills will become laws before the legislature adjourns.

A BIG SCHEME.

The World to be Heated by a Series of Radiators.

Hutchinson News.

Yesterday was something of a dull day all around owing to the rain and the up-town freight office of the Rock Island was no exception to the rule.

G. E. Johnson improved the time evolving the plans for a gigantic heating apparatus that for boldness of design and magnitude of the thing would render Col. Sellers' proposition to buy up all Missouri's hogs and corner the market, a tame affair. By special permission, the News was given the inside position and really the news is too good to keep, so here goes.

The scheme is to have large steam radiators surrounding the city at distances from each other of about ten rods. Another row of radiators is to extend the entire length of Main street, and another east and west at about Sherman street. Mr. Johnson claims that this would insure sufficient warmth to supply the entire city, and men could go along the streets without coats and the ladies without wraps. The radiators to be heated by means of a vast furnace and sent to each radiator through pipes. Mr. Johnson first desires to heat one city, and if his calculations are correct the experiment will meet with so much favor that it will only be a question of time before the government will take the matter in hand and banish winter from the entire United States.

This is undoubtedly the most important movement of the century, and if it works will make the name of G. E. Johnson the most illustrious in the galaxy of great names and be of everlasting benefit to the world. It will, of course, take a good deal of money even to test the experiment, but it was learned late last night that E. E. Barton offered to head a subscription list with a million dollars and A. Z. Hamilton offered to put up a like amount simply to test the matter.

Have You Read

"The Riddle of the Sphinx," by N. B. Ashby, Lecturer of the National Farmers' Alliance? The greatest book ever written for the farmer's cause. Illustrated with fine photo-engravings of the leading officers of the different farm organizations. Read what is said of it:

INDUSTRIAL PUBLISHING CO.: I have received and carefully read Mr. Ashby's book, "The Riddle of the Sphinx." To say that I am well pleased with it does not fully express my sentiments. I regard it a work of the greatest possible value, and earnestly hope that a copy will find its way into the home of every farmer in the land.

Very truly yours,

W. A. KELSEY,

Sec. Indiana Farmers' Alliance.

INDUSTRIAL PUBLISHING CO.: I unhesitatingly recommend "The Riddle of the Sphinx" to every F. M. B. A. member. It is a glorious book for the farmer's cause and Mr. Ashby has rendered a great service to the people by writing it.

W. T. STILLWELL,

President General Assembly, F. M. B. A. No middleman's profit. Sold to the farmer direct from the publishers at the wholesale prices. Have the Secretary of your local Alliance, Grange, F. M. B. A., or other societies write us for particulars, or if you do not belong to any farm organization, write us yourself for descriptive circular, etc.

INDUSTRIAL PUBLISHING CO.,

201 Monon Block, Chicago. Secretaries of all farm organizations should write for particulars and price.

Specimen Cases.

S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wis., was troubled with Neuralgia and Rheumatism, his Stomach was disordered, his Liver was affected to an alarming degree, appetite fell away, and he was terribly reduced in flesh and strength. Three bottles of Electric Bitters cured him.

Edward Shepherd, Harrisburg, Ill., had a running sore on his leg of eight years' standing. Used three bottles of Electric Bitters and seven boxes of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and his leg is sound and well. John Speaker, Catawba, O., had five large fever sores on his leg, doctors said he was incurable. One bottle of Electric Bitters and one box Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him entirely. Sold by City Drug Store. 3

A Matter of Taste.

A few folks like old-fashioned things,—old clothes, old houses and old books. Others want modern articles. The latter class is in the majority. There are a few old fogies who prefer slow trains, light rails, hand brakes and big smokestacks. The rest of mankind enjoy traveling close to mile a minute on steel rails, in vestibule cars, with every home comfort at hand.

The Santa Fe Route between Kansas City and Chicago is a modern line for people of the 19th century.

G. T. Nicholson, G. P. & T. A., Topeka, Kansas; J. J. Byrne, A. G. P. & T. A., Chicago.

FRED GARDNER, Agent,
Dodge City, Kans.

City Treasurer's Call for City Warrants.

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435	Sept. 5, 1888.	Sept. 5, 1888.	\$ 50.00
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475	April 17, 1888.	April 22, 1888.	3.00
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